processing element and base body are joined.

15. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the base body is embodied in annular form.

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16. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the form of the base body is essentially that of an annular segment. ---

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant amendment has been made to generally improve the form of the specification and claims for U.S. patent prosecution. Further, Applicants submit that the instant amendment has not been made for any reasons related to the Patent Act, and that the claims are not narrowed by the instant amendment.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX A

Marked-Up Copies of the Amended Paragraph:

[0001] The invention relates to a method for producing fittings [according to the preamble of claim 1] for the mechanical processing of suspended fibrous material.

[0002] Fittings produced in this manner are used for the mechanical processing of suspended fibrous material. This includes but not limited [means above] to all refining paper fibers, i.e., changing fiber properties, such as length, flexibility or surface. Fittings are mounted, e.g., in refiners. The suspension in refiners has a solids content of approx. 2 - 8 %, and even more in special machines. Such machines for higher stock consistencies are called, e.g., high consistency refiners, dispersers or kneader pulpers. Conventional machines have at least one rotor and at least one stator with either disk-shaped or conical surfaces on which the fittings are mounted, so that gaps can form between them. Many fittings feature ridges and grooves on the working surfaces, which is why they are also called "knife fittings." It is known that in addition to the shape of such ridges, the material they are made of also has an impact on the processing of the fibrous material.

[0007] A method for producing fittings is already known from DE 197 54 807 A1, where they are assembled from parts manufactured separately. This publication suggests joining the processing element to the base body by [means] the method of vulcanization. There are cases in which this is not the best possible type of mounting.

[0010] [This object is attained by the features specified in the characterizing part of claim 1] Accordingly, this invention includes a method for producing fittings for the mechanical processing of suspended fibrous material, wherein the fittings inlcude at least one base body and at least one processing element that is wetted by a fibrous material suspension during operation of the fitting and the fittings are composed at least mainly of ceramic material. The method includes producing the processing element and the base body separately and joining them together rigidly at their contact surface. The base body is made of a material with a thermal expansion behavior that has been adapted to that of the processing element.

[0013] The invention is explained by [means of] diagrammatic drawings. They show:

Fig. 1 in perspective: a fitting produced according to the invention;

Fig. 2 a fitting produced according to the invention in side view in section;

Fig. 3 a typical refiner fitting in plan view;

Figs. 4 and 5 in perspective: further fittings produced according to the invention.

APPENDIX B

Marked-Up Copies of the Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A method [Method] for producing fittings for the mechanical processing[, in particular refining,] of suspended fibrous material, in which the fittings [comprise] include at least one base body [(1, 1')] and at least one processing element [(2, 2')] that is wetted by a [the] fibrous material suspension during operation of the fitting and the fittings are composed at least mainly of ceramic material, [with processing element (2, 2') and base body (1, 1') being produced separately and then joined together rigidly at their contact surfaces (3, 4), characterized in that] the method comprising:

separately producing the at least one processing element and the at least one base body,

joining together contact surfaces of the at least one processing element and the at least one base body,

wherein the base body [(1, 1')] is made of a fiber reinforced plastic material structured to have [with] a thermal expansion behavior [that has been adapted to that] of the at least one processing element [(2, 2')].

2. (Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the base body [(1, 1')] is made of a glass-fiber reinforced plastic material.

3. (Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the base body [(1, 1')] is made of a carbon fiber reinforced plastic material.

4. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein a [the] thermal expansion coefficient in the contact surfaces [(3, 4) of the base body (1, 1') and] is within 25% of that of the processing element [(2, 2') is identical within 25%].

5. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the base body [(1, 1')] and processing element [(2, 2')] are joined together at their contact surfaces [(3, 4)] by adhesive forces.

6. (Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the adhesive forces are applied by a largely rigid adhesive layer.

7. (Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the thickness of the adhesive layer is no more than 0.5 mm.

8. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the base body [(1, 1')] and a [the] corresponding processing element [(2, 2')] are joined together by several spaced mounting elements.

9. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein strips [(4)] are produced [towards the fibrous material side] on a surface of the processing element structured to contact the fibrous material during manufacture of the processing element [(2, 2')].

10. (Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein a [the] width [(b)] of the strips [(4)] is between 1 and 30 mm.

11. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the strips [(4)] are arranged to form grooves in the processing element and the strips are structured to project [provided with a projection (c)] above a [the] base of the groove [, which is] to a height between 1 and 20 mm.

12. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized

in that] wherein the processing elements [(2, 2')] are provided with an essentially smooth surface on [the] faces arranged to contact the fibrous material [(11)].

13. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the processing elements [(2, 2')] are provided with an essentially porous surface [(11)] on [the] faces arranged to contact the fibrous material [(11')].

14. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein at least one recess [(6')] is made in the base body [(1')], into which an elevation [(7')] on the processing element [(2, 2')] fits when the processing element [(2, 2')] and base body [(1')] are joined.

15. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the base body [(1, 1')] is embodied in annular form.

16. (Twice Amended) The method [Method] according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the form of the base body [(1, 1')] is essentially that of an annular segment.